THE TRAVANCORE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Under Rule 42 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, passed under date the 18th October 1932, I am directed to inform you that the Sri Chitra State Council has, at its meeting held on the 22nd November, 1935, agreed, without any amendments, to the Travancore Village Panchayat Regulation (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Sri Mulam Assembly at its meeting held on the 13th November, 1935.

THE TRAVANCORE REGISTRATION REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Under Rule 42 of the Travancore Legislative Rules, passed under date the 28th October, 1932, I am directed to inform you that the Sri Chitra State Council has, at its meeting held on the 22nd November, 1935 agreed, without any amendments, to the Travancore Registration Regulation (Amendment) Bill, which was passed by the Sri Mulam Assembly at its meetieg held on the 18th November 1935.

Legislative Business.

THE TRAVANCORE AGRICULTURISTS' RELIEF BILL.—(*contd.*)

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, last evening I was trying to explain to the House that the conciliation of debts between the debtor and creditor through the machinery of a Conciliation Board was one of the chief devices for bringing relief to the indebted agriculturists. And, I told the House that the conciliation proposed in the Bill is purely voluntary, that is to say, that the conciliation proposed need not be accepted by the debtor or the creditor if he does not choose to do so.

At the same time, I was trying to meet a possible criticism that no proposals are made in the Bill for curtailing any past interest *i. e.*, interest accrued prior to this enactment and no proposal is made for reducing the principal of any debt, or, in other words, that there is no attempt to scale down any debt under any circumstances. As I said yesterday, it may not be right to *compel* the creditor to forego any amount. In well-ordered societies, which rest ultimately on law, the expectations guaranteed by law or the rules of the society should not be lightly set at nought. Nor can any general rule or law be devised as to the method of scaling down debts without causing hardship which is not desired by anybody. I was also trying to explain that the conciliation through a Board as proposed will avoid both evils. Firstly the conciliation need not be accepted by anybody, unless he is willing to do so. Secondly, no hard and fast rules are necessary for the scaling down of debts through a Board. The Board will be guided by the particular circumstances of each case in deciding what should be the scaling down or in what manner the scaling down of principal or interest, as the case may be, should be made.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Then, what is the exact purpose of the Board?

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